



**May 31, 2021**

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## Last Week

### *State Forester*

- ◆ Rob Farrell, Ed Zimmer (deputy state forester) and Joe Lehnert (urban wood utilization forester) attended the "topping-off" ceremony for the APEX Energy building in Charlottesville. "Topping-off" involves the placement of the last mass timber panel on the top floor of the building. The team created a post for the VDOF's Instagram account.
- ◆ Rob Farrell and a number of VDOF staff attended the 2021 East Coast Logging Expo at the Richmond Raceway facility. Ed Zimmer, Rachel Harris (utilization and marketing specialist), Matt Poirer (water quality program manager), Nelson Hillyer (water quality specialist), Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer), and Joe Lehnert also attended and assisted with VDOF's outreach efforts.
- ◆ Rob Farrell worked with Assistant Secretary Heidi Hertz and the Institute for Engagement and Negotiation (IEN) at UVA to craft a process to accomplish the Urban Tree Preservation study described in the VDOF budget and in similar legislation. VDOF identified additional funding to support the work for a more robust process in the mandated time frame.

### *Forestland Conservation*

- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban & Community Forestry [U&CF] partnership coordinator) continues to finalize plans for the Virginia Tree Steward Symposium that is set to be virtually held June 24 & 25. Tree Stewards from across the state will collaborate and learn from one another and hear from leading experts in the field of urban forestry. Topics include urban soils, native species selection for urban areas, and community engagement through greenlining.

- ◆ Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager) visited the Town of Colonial Beach and spoke during a Town Council meeting with Karen Firehock of the Green Infrastructure Center Inc. about University of Virginia student-led re-greening projects in the town and tree planting recommendations.
- ◆ Rachel Harris and Terry Lasher (assistant state forester) hosted a third Industry Roundtable. This roundtable consisted of a bi-state effort with our partners from the North Carolina Forest Service, members of Virginia and North Carolina's forest industry, forestry consultants, harvesting professionals, and university partners. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss cross over concerns that were identified in individual state roundtables and discover potential solutions as part of a USDA Forest Service grant. The discussion was facilitated by the University of Virginia's Institute of Engagement and Negotiation.

## Forest Resource Management

- ◆ VDOF Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) staff, along with the FIA staff from Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana & North Carolina, participated in a virtual training session for the "P2+" plots to be done in summer 2021. This subset of FIA plots have additional measurements, such as down woody material for fuel loading and carbon, as well as understory vegetation estimation.
- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) attended (virtually) the annual Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey meeting. This meeting is run by Virginia Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (VDACS) and includes state, federal, and university partners who work with forest, urban, and agricultural pests. Katlin presented a summary of VDOF's forest health monitoring activities in 2020 and 2021.
- ◆ Teagan O'Brien (forest health technician) and Lori Chamberlin (forest health manager) treated seven large hemlock trees at Riven Rock Park in Harrisonburg. These trees are infested with the hemlock woolly adelgid and were treated with an insecticide applied as a soil drench.
- ◆ All data has been collected and analyzed from the 2021 spring southern pine beetle (SPB) survey. Twenty-five traps were placed in high risk areas in Virginia and local area foresters helped collect samples for four weeks. There was a slight increase in SPBs trapped in 2021. Chesterfield County had the most beetles; some were found in Cumberland, Gloucester, New Kent, and Prince Edward; and just a few beetles were found in Accomack, Hanover, and Sussex. Forest Health program staff will continue to monitor the entire state for pine bark beetle activity, but will pay close attention to Chesterfield County where the most SPB activity is expected. Please enter Forest Health Ground Observations (FHGOs) in IFRIS as you come across SPB spots in the field; this will help improve the accuracy of SPB predictions in the future.
- ◆ Clemson University released this video on the identification and management of Privet, an invasive plant in the southeast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc2HAr8nBiY>

## Human Resources

- ◆ On May 24, the VDOF family welcomed our Summer Interns. For over four years, VDOF has been able to provide practical or experiential learning opportunities for college students to develop and prepare them for entry into the labor force. This program has impacted over 20 undergraduate students to date. Please welcome our newest VDOF intern team members:
  - *Sean Murray* - Mentored by Joe Rossetti
  - *Anna Pletch* - Mentored by Kathleen Ogilvy
  - *McCray Sawyers* - Mentored by Kevin Keith
  - *Claire Sherwood* - Mentored by Sarah Parmelee

- *Owen Ferguson* - Mentored by Dean Cumbia
- ◆ VDOF was selected as one of ten organizations statewide to participate in the newest practical experience available to PhD candidates within the Commonwealth of Virginia and host a Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering & Science (COVES) Fellow. This program aims to strengthen ties between the scientific community and state government in the Commonwealth, while encouraging and equipping more scientists and engineers to be effective advisors for public policy in Virginia.
- ◆ VDOF welcomes ICTAS Doctoral Scholar and PhD Candidate *Margaret Nagai-Singer* from Virginia Tech's Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences Program. Margaret will be primarily mentored by Assistant State Forester Terry Lasher, with Director of Forest Resource Management Dean Cumbia and Director of Public Information Michelle Stoll acting as secondary mentors.

## Agency Lands

- ◆ Jerre Creighton (research program manager), Dean Cumbia (director of forest resource management), Tom Zaebst (assistant state forests manager) and Ed Zimmer led a field tour at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest for 25 members of the R.E. Lee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. The two stops dealt with:
  - The performance of containerized and bareroot seedlings planted in different months between October and April.
  - Hardwood silviculture as related to the Hardwood Forest Habitat Initiative.
- ◆ A new research report (# 137) entitled "Controlling American Holly with Basal Sprays of Triclopyr" has been posted to the resource library at <https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/RR-137.pdf>. The report describes two-year results of a test of the herbicide triclopyr ester (product name Garlon 4 Ultra) applied as a basal spray to control American holly in the understory of mixed hardwood stands. Rates as low as five percent applied in February or 20 percent applied in March were highly effective.
- ◆ John Scrivani and David Crouch (part-timers) worked on mowing the chestnut orchards at Lesesne State Forest and selecting / tagging trees to be part of this spring's controlled pollination effort which should occur from roughly June 7 - 30, depending on weather and flower development.

## State Forest

- ◆ Stan Warner (retired silviculturist) was recently presented the Golden Member award from the Society of American Forester (SAF) for his 50+ year participation and membership in the professional society. In addition, Stan was also presented the SAF Presidential Field Forester Award from the Appalachian Society of American Foresters for 2020.
- ◆ State Forest personnel analyzed data from a Hikers Log at the Crawfords State Forest. Highlights of the report were:
  - In late 2012, an Eagle Scout candidate approached the State Forest seeking a project to fulfill his requirements for the badge. We put our heads together and came up with a plan to create a walking trail on the Crawfords State Forest. We ended up with a very nice trail that uses the one existing road on the forest that extends to the swamp along the Chickahominy River and hugs the west side of Schiminioe Creek covering about one-and-a-half miles – a good distance for a day hike. As part of the project, he installed a mailbox with the title "Hikers Log" stenciled on it. We kept the



box supplied with data entry forms and periodically collected them. Early use of the trail was minimal but word of mouth eventually led to increased use, and by 2018, there was regularly between 150 and 200 people using the trail each year. The year 2020 saw an increase in visits to Crawford's State Forest of 261 percent. There were 581 people who came to visit the trail, up 289 percent from 2019. Forty-nine percent of the visitors are not residents of New Kent County. Thank you to Dennis Gaston (forest management specialist) for the write-up and oversight!

### **Central Region**

- ◆ Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer) assisted with Virginia Logging Expo and taught two Sustainable Harvesting and Resource Professional (SHARP) Logger update classes at the Expo to a total of 25 people.

### **News Clips**

- ◆ [Developing wood welding as a rapid timber joining technique](#)
- ◆ [Spotted Lanternfly Detected in Prince William County, Virginia](#)
- ◆ [Clifton Institute aims to restore a forest, one tree at a time](#)
- ◆ ['Big data' helps direct preservation decisions](#)
- ◆ [U.S. proposes big increase in forest management to tackle wildfires](#)
- ◆ [WATCH NOW: Tallest timber building on East Coast celebrates topping out downtown](#)